

POLITICAL INFORMATION.
OF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
EXECUTIVE.

The executive is the head and ruler of the political community. He is so called because he executes or enforces the laws which the legislative body enacts. With us the President is the chief executive head of a state; and the mayor is, or ought to be, the executive head of a city.

Large powers are usually, and ought always to be given to an executive or ruler; these powers should be, and in constitutional governments are, strictly limited; but within the limits fixed in the constitution the ruler should have the most discretion; for thus only can he be held responsible for faithfully executing the duties of his office. Responsibility can never be greater than the authority given.

Thus you see that to tell a general to win a battle, and leave him to make his own plan, is to give him a large responsibility because his authority is practically unlimited. But to order him to win a battle according to certain plans imposed on him by a council of war, would be to cramp and limit his powers, and in some measure to lessen his responsibility—if he were beaten, he might justly say that the plan of action in accordance with which he was compelled to fight was not the best, and that defeat was not his fault, but the fault of the council, which impaired his liberty of action; hence he would not probably exert himself to the utmost.

One of the most vicious and dangerous defects in a scheme of government, therefore, is a mixed and ill-defined responsibility. Thus if the executive is intrusted to two or more persons, confusion and corruption are sure to result, because it is then impossible to fix the blame for misconduct upon any one officer. A board or commission, as an executive composed of a number of persons, is called, is certain to be both inefficient and corrupt. This is because it is more difficult to bring several persons to a prompt decision than one; and because the blame for inefficiency or misconduct is shifted from one to the other, to the confusion of the public, which can not tell whom to punish.

It is another vicious defect to take away from the executive head the appointment of his subordinates, for he can not justly be held responsible for the conduct of persons selected by others than himself; and being deprived of what is of the essence of just authority, he is pretty certain to lose that strong interest in the conduct of affairs which he is compelled to feel when the eyes of the people are fixed upon him alone, and in his single person is held responsible for the administration of the public business.

In a well-ordered free government, therefore, the executive head, being chosen for a specified time, and having duties and powers clearly defined and limited, ought to possess the power to appoint and remove his subordinates at will. In that case he can be justly held responsible by the people for the management of affairs.

In our own Federal Government, the Senate has an advisory power in regard to appointments made by the President (but none as to renvoys); and to that extent the Senate is a part of the executive. This power was given in the Constitution, because those who framed that instrument were more fearful of the tyranny of a despot executive than of the worse, because less responsible, tyranny of a numerous body like the Senate; and believed it necessary to guard with especial care against usurpation by the President. If they lived at this day, they would probably wish to remove even this slight check upon the appointing power, because they would see that there is but little reason to fear an attack upon our liberties by the President, who has a limited time to serve, and may be impeached for misgovernment; while it becomes constantly more desirable to fix responsibility for misgovernment upon a single person, in order that the people may more easily understand whom and how to visit the punishment.

During the administration of President Johnson, the Congress adopted a "tenure of office" law, which prohibited removals from office by the President without the consent of the Senate. The result was, however, not permanence in office, but the removal of many good officers who had fallen under the President's displeasure, and the appointment in their places of incompetent men who were favorites of senators or representatives, and to get whom into place they persuaded the Senate to agree to removals. Thus the public service was debauched, and yet the President was able to say that he had the countenance of the Senate in this work; and Blame could not be fastened upon him alone. A more wily and unscrupulous President than Mr. Johnson might have very gravely injured the public service under this law, and still managed to escape blame.

It is proper to repeat to you that the powers and authority of the Executive under the Federal Constitution are so limited that even the worst man in that office can not, without exposing himself to impeachment and removal, cause serious harm to the republic during his term of office; and that the just exercise of the powers which of right belong to him would make him no odious to the people that they would—at the end of his term—vote to re-elect him. The easiest way to defeat this proper result would be to place checks upon him, which would make him irresponsible for misgovernment in the eyes of the people.

Most of our state constitutions and many city charters are laudable in this, that they deprive the chief executive of the power to appoint even his most important subordinates. This is done on the principle that the people, who are made to elect these subordinates, have thus greater power; but, as I shall show you further on, this is a great mistake, and the cause of constant corruption in our local politics.

Nordhoff.

Sanitary Information.

No III.

DOMICILIARY DRAINAGE.

Wherever and whenever an excavation is made in which to construct a cellar for a house, there necessarily occurs an interruption of the natural drainage of the soil. The underground channels for the percolation of water are interrupted, and must be restored by the construction of a drain below the level of the cellar, and all the surrounding area requires a system of drains connecting with the main outlet. To neglect this is perilous. How many houses constructed after elaborate and well considered plans, executed under the influence of bright hopes and happy auspices for the future have proved the gateway to death from the neglect of these simple principles! Examining the admirably designed and graphic charts that illustrate the vital statistics of the last census. The varying shades of crimson, tell us that malarial and typhus fevers prevail all over the United States in greater or less intensity, and while knowing that the chief source of this wide-spread calamity is saturated and undrained soil, how painful it is to reflect that the least expensive of all the efforts that man is required to make to secure for himself a healthful and a happy home is the simple draining of the soil!

Wells, Cesspools and Privies.

We observe throughout this country that on the premises adjoining every isolated or detached residence there are generally three excavations made, one for a cesspool, one for a privy, and another for a well. These are also most generally in near proximity to each other.

The well, of course, is always the deepest, and if the soil is porous, it necessarily receives the leakage from the other two, especially as all three excavations are always faced with stones laid without mortar or cement, precisely in the same manner that drains are constructed to admit the percolation of water through the interstices.

It seems absurd and almost impossible that the receptacle provided for securing a constant supply of pure water should be universally so constructed that every possible opportunity is afforded for destroying the purity of that water; for positively insuring the contamination of the water by so constructing the receptacle for refuse matter that the liquid can readily percolate through it into the well. The use of hydraulic cement in these constructions would obviate all this. In addition to which the overflow of the cesspool should be made to pass through charcoal; and, further, dry earth or charcoal deodorization should be constantly used in the privies.

Note.—In the Dominion of Canada I saw last month the most extensive system of drainage probably ever executed, successfully carried out under the combined action of the Government and individuals. By virtue of an organic law, certain main drains of great extent and capacity are opened by the Government and paid for by a general assessment. Connecting with these are lateral drains opened by the owners of estates at their own expense.

Thorough drainage of an extended area is thus secured by a general and uniform system.—Gen. Vide.

For the Saturday Gazette.

LITTLE ICEBERG,
A SONNET.

Whether this be an unconscious art,
Or studied stillness of fond disdain,
I wot not, yet, ask I, can there contain
Within so cold a form a woman's heart?

Non smile nor kindly glance thy face would own;

All fond greetings are thy lips unknown.
Proud beauty! woos thy cheek, delightfully,
A breeze that rocks thy self-sufficiency.
See, closing wider, at thy onward face,
A sweet expectancy; a bairn thine eye
Grows strangely, sweetly, furiously, marble face!
Speak this confession ere that breath is felt:
I am a woman and must meet and melt!

H. C. T.

After Dinner.

What is the use of a seat of war to a standing army?

Coleridge was once addressing a Bristol audience, when some of his hearers, not liking his sentiments, hissed. He paused, looked calmly round at them, and then, enunciating very slowly, said: "When on the burning embers of democracy you throw the cold water of reason, no wonder that they hiss."

The minister of a country parish in Scotland called one day, in the course of his pastoral visitation, on a decent old woman who was a member of his congregation. Engaging in friendly conversation with her, he said, "I hear your potatoes are not very good this year, Janet." "Deed, are they no', sir," said Janet, "they're very bad; but I've reason to be thankful that other folk's are as bad as my ain."

Daniel Webster is not the only bright boy in New Hampshire. The Boston Globe has heard of another—a youth residing in Dover, who refused to take a pill. His crafty mother therupon secretly placed a pill in a preserved pear, and gave it to him. Presently she asked, "Tom, have you eaten the pear?" "Yes," he said, "yes, mother, all but the seed."

At Toledo, Ohio, a few evenings since, an old gentleman, with defective vision was a passenger in a railway car, and at one of the stations was attracted by the cry of "potatoes." He at once put his head out of the window to make a purchase, and found out too late that the window was closed. He paid for his glass and didn't get his peaches.

BIGAN EARLY.—A traveller stopping over night with a Texan farmer whose estate was miles and miles in extent, said to him, "You must have begun life early to accumulate such an estate as this!" "Yes," replied the farmer, "I began life when I was a mere baby!"

The Home.

A GOOD HOUSEWIFE.—A good housewife is one of the first blessings in the economy of life. Men put a great value upon the qualifications of their partners after marriage; however, they may weigh them before, and there is nothing which tends more to mar the felicities of married life than recklessness or want of knowledge of the new housekeeper of the debts which belong to her station. Men admire beauty, order and system in everything, and men admire good fare. These are found in their dwellings, and are seasoned with good nature and good sense; they will seek their chief enjoyment at home—they will love their home and their partners, and strive to rechoose the kind offices of duty and affection.

Others who study the welfare of their daughters will not fail to instruct them in the qualifications of married life, and those who appreciate the value of these qualifications will not fail to acquire them.

WEAR A SMILE.—Which will you do—smile and make others happy, or be crabbed and make everybody around you miserable? You can live as it were, among beautiful flowers and singing birds, or in the mire, surrounded by boggs and lagoons. The amount of happiness you can produce is incalculable. If you show a smiling face and a kind heart, and speak pleasant words. On the other hand, by sour looks, cross words, and fretful disposition you can make a number of persons wretched almost beyond endurance. Which will you do? Wear pleasant countenance, let joy beam in your eyes, and love glow in your face! There are few joys so great as that which springs from a kind act or a pleasant deed, and you may feel it at night when you rest, at morning when you arise, and through the day when about your daily business.

WHAT TO EAT.—We have heard of people who suffered so terribly from dyspepsia that every species of food and drink caused them untold agony; and we have seen their tortuous pass away and their hunger relieved by living upon the white of eggs, which had been boiled in bubbling water for thirty minutes. At the end of a week they had eaten the hard yolk of the egg with the white, and upon this diet alone, without fluid of any kind, we have seen them begin to gain flesh and strength and refreshing sleep. After weeks of this treatment they have been able, with care, to begin upon other food. And all this without taking medicine. Hard-boiled eggs are not so bad as half-boiled ones, and ten times as easy to digest as raw eggs, even in egg-nog.

NO REMEDY FOR PURIFYING FOUL OR NASTY RECEPES IN MORE SIMPLE AND EFFECTUAL THAN BURNED COFFEE. IT IS SAID THAT IT NOT ONLY RENDERS ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE EFFLUVIA INOFFENSIVE, BUT ABSOLUTELY INNOCUOUS. BY ITS USE REFRIGERATORS MAY BE KEPT SWEET AND FRESH.

WELLS, CESSPOOLS AND PRIVIES.

We observe throughout this country that on the premises adjoining every isolated or detached residence there are generally three excavations made, one for a cesspool, one for a privy, and another for a well. These are also most generally in near proximity to each other.

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